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ABSTRACT

Statistics and trends on minority enrollment in independent colleges are summarized. During 1986-1988, enrollment of minority students increased by 5.3%, slightly faster than the rate of increase for minority students at public institutions. Minority student enrollment in independent colleges accounted for 18.4% of the full time equivalent enrollment, slightly less than in public institutions. Reversing a previous trend, there was an increase in the enrollment of Black students in independent colleges but enrollment of Hispanic students declined (due primarily to enrollment declines in Puerto Rico). Separate data for four-year and two-year institutions indicate that independent two-year institutions enroll a larger proportion of minority students than any other type of college (25.4%) despite an overall decrease in enrollment. Tables provide detailed statistics by ethnic group and institution type. (DB)

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MINORITY ENROLLMENT IN INDEPENDENT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES 1986 - 1988

Between fall 1986 and fall 1988, enrollment of minority students at independent (private, not-for-profit) colleges and universities increased by 5.3 percent -- slightly faster than the rate of increase for minority students at public institutions (4.5 percent). In fall 1988 minority students accounted for 18.4 percent of full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment in independent colleges and universities compared to 19.9 percent in public institutions.

Minority enrollment at independent colleges and universities also increased faster than the enrollment of white students (2.1 percent). The rate of increase of white enrollment in public institutions (4.5 percent) was twice as fast as in independent colleges and universities.

Reversing a troubling trend in the early and mid-1980's, there was an increase in the enrollment of black students in independent colleges and universities -- up by 7.1 percent compared with 0.2 percent in public institutions. Enrollment of Hispanic students in independent higher education decreased by 4.4 percent due primarily to enrollment declines in Puerto Rico. If data from Puerto Rico were excluded from the analysis, enrollment of Hispanic students would increase by 10.9 percent in independent colleges and universities. Enrollment of Asian students increased by 22.3 percent in independent colleges and universities and by 10.5 percent in public higher education. Enrollment of Native American students in independent institutions increased by 9.2 percent compared with 3.6 percent in public colleges and universities.

Four-Year Institutions

In fall 1988, minority students accounted for 18.2 percent of total FTE enrollment in independent four-year colleges and universities and 17.8 percent in public four-year institutions. At independent four-year colleges and universities, enrollment of minority students increased by 5.9 percent between fall 1986 and fall 1988 compared with 5.7 percent at public four-year institutions.

At independent four-year institutions enrollment of black students increased by 8.0 percent compared with 3.4 percent at public four-year institutions. Hispanic

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enrollment declined by 4.6 percent for the same reasons noted above. If data from Puerto Rico were eliminated, then an increase of 10.9 percent would result. The enrollment of Asian American students in independent four-year institutions increased by 23.0 percent; and by 12.1 percent in public four-year institutions. Native American enrollment increased by 15.7 percent at independent four-year institutions and by 4.0 percent at public four-year institutions.

Two-Year Institutions

Independent two-year colleges showed an overall decrease in enrollment, although enrollment of minority students declined at a slower rate than nonminority students. Nevertheless, independent two-year institutions enroll a larger proportion of minority students than any other type of college -- 25.4 percent.

At independent two-year colleges enrollment of black students declined by 8.1 percent compared to a decrease of 3.9 percent in public community colleges. Hispanic enrollment dipped slightly by 0.9 percent compared to an increase of 10.3 percent in public community colleges. Asian American and Native American enrollment also declined by 3.5 percent and 14.2 percent respectively. However, enrollment of these students account for less than three percent of all FTE students in independent two-year colleges. Overall, minority enrollment at independent two-year colleges fell by 5.1 percent between fall 1986 and fall 1988, but slower than the decrease of 8.9 percent in the enrollment of white students. At public community colleges, enrollment of minority students grew by 3.2 percent and enrollment of white students grew at a faster rate -- 5.2 percent.

Concluding Remarks

Although this information presents some encouraging information regarding minority enrollment in higher education, it is important to remember that there still are serious problems in the higher education participation rates of low-income and some middle-income minority groups. Nevertheless, the increase in minority enrollment at independent four-year colleges and universities is significant, especially given the increased likelihood of timely completion of undergraduate degrees by students in independent higher education.

Table 1

CHANGES IN MINORITY ENROLLMENT IN HIGHER EDUCATION
FALL 1986 TO FALL 1988

	All Minorities	Black	Hispanic	Asian American	Native American	White	Total
Public	+4.6%	+0.2%	+7.5%	+10.5%	+3.6%	+4.5%	+4.6%
Two-Year	+3.2	-3.9	+10.3	+8.0	+3.3	+5.2	+4.7
Four-Year	+5.7	+3.4	+4.7	+12.1	+4.0	+4.2	+4.4
Independent	+5.3%	+7.1%	-4.4%	+22.3%	+9.2%	+2.1%	+2.6%
Two-Year	-5.1	-8.1	-0.9	-3.5	-14.2	-8.9	-8.0
Four-Year	+5.9	+8.0	-4.6	+23.0	+14.2	+2.5	+3.1

Notes: Based on full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment. Includes enrollment in 50 states, Washington, D.C., and outlying areas. If data were included only for 50 states and Washington, D.C., then the percentage changes would be as follows:

	All Minorities	Black	Hispanic	Asian American	Native American	White	Total
Public	+4.7%	+0.3%	+8.6%	+10.1%	+3.6%	+4.5%	+4.6%
Two-Year	+3.0	-3.9	+10.4	+7.0	+3.2	+5.2	+4.7
Four-Year	+6.2	+3.5	+6.5	+12.2	+4.0	+4.2	+4.5
Independent	+11.0%	+7.1%	+10.1%	+22.6%	+9.2%	+2.1%	+3.4%
Two-Year	-7.3	-8.1	-3.2	-3.5	-14.2	-8.9	-8.6
Four-Year	+12.0	+8.0	+10.9	+23.1	+15.7	+2.5	+3.9

Source: Data are from the U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. Analysis is by the National Institute of Independent Colleges and Universities.

Table 2

PROPORTION OF MINORITY ENROLLMENT IN HIGHER EDUCATION
FALL 1988

	All Minorities	Black	Hispanic	Asian American	Native American	White
Public	19.9%	8.8%	6.1%	4.2%	0.8%	80.1%
Two-Year	23.4	9.8	8.2	4.4	1.1	76.6
Four-Year	17.8	8.2	4.9	4.0	0.6	82.2
Independent	18.4%	8.2%	6.4%	3.5%	0.4%	81.6%
Two-Year	25.4	10.6	11.8	1.2	1.7	74.6
Four-Year	18.2	8.1	6.2	3.5	0.3	81.8

Notes: Based on full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment. Includes enrollment in 50 states, Washington, D.C., and outlying areas. If data were included only for 50 states and Washington, D.C., then the proportions would be as follows:

	All Minorities	Black	Hispanic	Asian American	Native American	White
Public	19.2%	8.8%	5.4%	4.2%	0.8%	80.8%
Two-Year	23.2	9.8	8.0	4.3	1.1	76.8
Four-Year	16.8	8.3	3.9	4.1	0.6	83.2
Independent	15.7%	8.5%	3.3%	3.6%	0.4%	84.3%
Two-Year	19.5	11.4	4.9	1.3	1.9	80.5
Four-Year	15.6	8.4	3.2	3.7	0.3	84.4

Source: Data are from the U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. Analysis is by the National Institute of Independent Colleges and Universities.